



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**

Vicksburg District
4155 Clay Street
Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435
www.mvk.usace.army.mil



Public Notice

APPLICATION NO.:	TAM-MVK-2006-1903
EVALUATOR:	Tonya Myrick
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DATE:	March 9, 2007
EXPIRATION DATE:	March 30, 2007

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality are considering an application for a Department of the Army Permit and State Water Quality Certification for the work described herein. Comments should be forwarded to the Vicksburg District, Attention: CEMVK-OD-F and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at Post Office Box 8913, Little Rock, Arkansas 72219-8913, and must reach these offices by the cited expiration date.

Law Requiring a Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and harbors Act of 1899, which applies to discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Name of Applicant:
Southwest Electric Power Company
1 Riverside Plaza, 10th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Location of Work: Sections 32 and 33, T12S-R26W, Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18 and 19, T13S-R26W, and Sections 13 and 24, T13S-R27W within the confluence of the Little River and Red River, Hempstead County, near Fulton, Arkansas.

Description of Work: (See enclosed map and drawings.)

The following descriptions of the project and associated impacts are based upon information provided by the applicant.

The applicant is applying for a Department of the Army permit for discharge of dredge and/or fill material in jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the United States.

The applicant's stated purpose for the project is to construct the John W. Turk, Jr. Power Plant. This 600-Mega Watt net coal-fired power plant would be used to provide additional power generation capacity for future power needs of SWEPCO. Power would be generated from a steam generator powering a single reheat steam turbine-generator fueled by PRB pulverized coal. The main facility footprint would be located on the east side of Highway 355. The project would also include the installation of a conveyance line from the main facility to the river on the southern end of the site.

Bridge Creek runs through the property transecting the area that would contain the main facility. There would be three bridged crossings planned for the creek channel- two road crossings and a rail crossing. Fill impacts associated with the construction of the bridge aprons is approximately 0.87 acre.

An additional 6,000 linear feet of an intermittent tributary of Bridge Creek would be impacted by excavating a new channel and using the spoil to fill the old channel. This would be done to accommodate construction of the coal handling facility. The approximate amount of fill associated with the channel filling would be 0.964 acre.

Coal delivery would be by rail using unit trains. A railroad system would be constructed on-site in a circular loop to accommodate two 150-car unit trains and facilitate unloading of the coal. Three rail spurs connected to the circular loop would support the needs of lime delivery and allow access to the main bay and the power transformers. There are two rail lines in the vicinity of the plant site that can be used to facilitate rail transport.

The source of the plant make-up water would be a newly constructed pumphouse located on the Little River. The intake pumps would be housed in the pumphouse which would be constructed near the riverbank. A pipe would be extended

underground from the pumphouse out into the river channel bottom. An intake screen would be fitted over the pipe opening in order to minimize impacts to fish and other aquatic life. Water intake for the power plant is estimated around 6,500 gallons per minute (GPM).

The project would involve the filling of approximately 42.0 acres of on-site wetlands within the 2,800-acre site. Since approximately 33.0 acres of wetlands would be used for the landfill area, some of the fill would come from the solid waste (fly ash and scrubber sludge) that will be generated during daily activities at the power plant. Approximately 109,000 cubic yards of fill from areas on-site would be used to fill the wetlands.

Three corridors would potentially be utilized for the construction of 345kV transmission lines. If constructed, these transmission lines would be to the south and west of the power plant. The northern transmission line (Route 1) would be approximately 26 miles long and would connect to the Texarkana substation. The middle transmission line (Route 2) would be approximately 19 miles long and would connect from the power plant to the Sugar Hill substation. The southern transmission line (Route 3) would be approximately 28 miles long and extend from the power station to Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas. Wetland impacts associated with transmission line construction have been mapped out and are proposed to be avoided.

American Electric Power proposes to compensate for wetland losses through a combination of wetland preservation, enhancement and restoration. The mitigation plans include preservation of approximately 52.0 acres of high-quality forested wetland and the enhancement and restoration of approximately 66.0 acres of degraded wetlands located within the southwest portion of the site. Preservation and enhancement would be planned for an oxbow lake/bottomland hardwood forest that is located on site. Enhancement and restoration would be through planting appropriate hydrophytic tree species, spreading of an herbaceous wetland seed mix, manipulating hydrology, and when needed, laying down the soil stripped from the impacted wetlands as a base.

The placement of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the United States associated with the mechanized land clearing requires a Department of the Army Permit.

Upon reviewing this notice, you should write to this office to provide your opinion of the impacts this work will have on the natural and human environment, and address any mitigation you believe is necessary to offset these impacts. Other comments are welcome, but the above information will further our review of the applicant's plan as proposed. Comments of a general nature are not as helpful as those specific to the impacts of the subject project.

State Water Quality Permit: The State Pollution Control Agency must certify that the described work will comply with the State's water quality standards and effluent limitations before a Corps permit is issued.

Cultural Resources: An initial review indicates that the proposed project would not affect any of the sites in Hempstead County listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice have been sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer, Federally Recognized Tribes, and other interested parties for comment on potential effects to cultural resources that could result from this activity.

Endangered Species: Our initial finding is that the proposed work would not affect any endangered species or their critical habitat. This proposal is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and any comments regarding endangered species or their critical habitat will be addressed in our evaluation of the described work.

Flood Plain: In accordance with 44 CFR Part 60 (Flood Plain Management and Use), participating communities are required to review all proposed development to determine if a flood plain development permit is required. Flood plain administrators should review the proposed development described in this public notice and apprise this office of any flood plain development permit requirements.

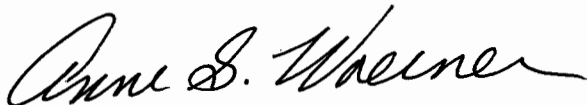
Evaluation Factors: The decision whether or not to issue a permit will be based upon an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits that may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its expected adverse effects. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, historic

values, fish and wildlife values, flood damage prevention, land use classification, navigation, recreation, water supply, water quality, energy needs, safety, food requirements and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the proposed activity will include application of the guidelines published by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Public Involvement: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties. These comments will be used to evaluate the impacts of this project. All comments will be considered and used to help determine whether to issue the permit, deny the permit, or issue the permit with conditions, and to help us determine the amount and type of mitigation necessary. This information will be used in our Environmental Assessment or Impact Statement. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing.

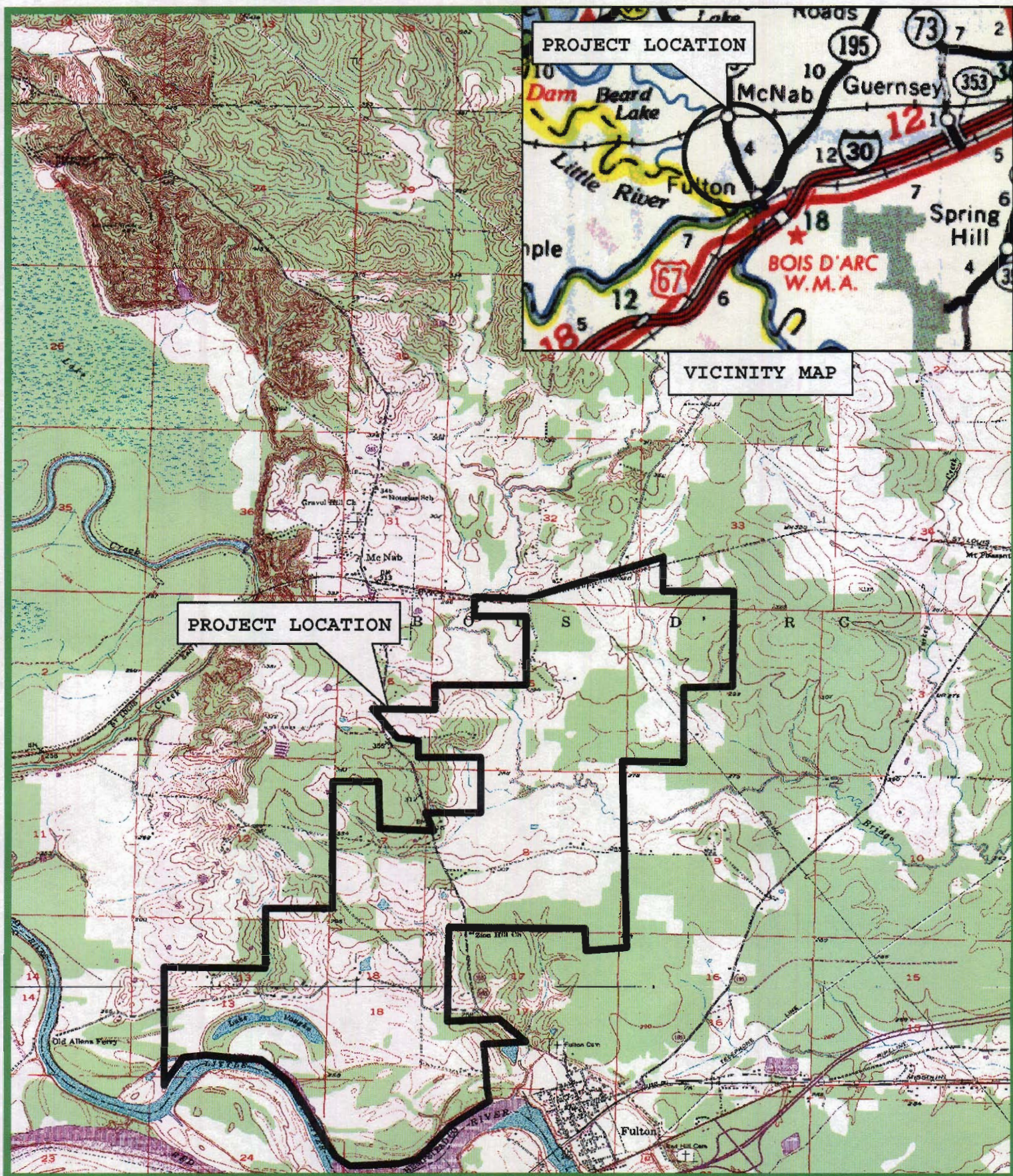
Opportunity for a Public Hearing: Any person may make a written request for a public hearing to consider this permit application. This request must be submitted by the public notice expiration date and must clearly state why a hearing is necessary. Failure of any agency or individual to comment on this notice will be interpreted to mean that there is no objection to the proposed work. Please bring this announcement to the attention of anyone you know who might be interested in this matter.

Notification of Final Permit Actions: Each month, the final permit actions from the preceding month are published on the Vicksburg District Regulatory web page. To access this information, you may follow the link from the Regulatory web page, <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/main.asp>, or go directly to the Final Permit Actions web page at <http://www.mvk.usace.army.mil/offices/od/odf/PubNotice/MonthlyNotice/pnmain.asp>.



Anne S. Woerner
Acting Chief, Evaluation Section

JOHN W. TURK JR POWER PLANT



HEMPSTEAD QUAD

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Miles



CEMVK-TAM-MVK-2006-1903

SOUTHWEST ELECTRIC POWER CO.

